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# *Aralia frodiniana* (Araliaceae), a New Species from Indonesia

Jun Wen

Department of Botany, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Illinois 60605, U.S.A. jwen@fieldmuseum.org

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species of *Aralia* from Sulawesi, Indonesia, *A. frodiniana* J. Wen, is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to *Aralia* sect. *Dimorphanthus* and is similar to *A. montana* from Java and Sumatra of Indonesia in its short or subsessile petiolules, and the narrowly triangular, dark brownish and glabrous inflorescence bracts with ciliate margins. *Aralia frodiniana* is distinguished from *A. montana* by its densely pubescent inflorescence, more pubescent leaves, and thinner leaflets. It differs from *A. ferox* from Java and Sumatra in its pubescent (vs. glabrescent) leaflets, and densely pubescent (vs. glabrous) inflorescence.

**Key words:** *Aralia*, Araliaceae, Indonesia.

*Aralia* L. (Araliaceae) consists of approximately 65 species distributed in eastern to southeastern Asia and in the Americas from Canada to Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru (Wen, 1993, 2001a). Recent systematic studies of *Aralia* (Wen, 1994, 2000a, 2000b, 2001a, 2001b; Wen et al., 1998) have led to the discovery of a new species, *A. frodiniana*, described here from Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), Indonesia. The new species is one of the 27 species of *Aralia* sect. *Dimorphanthus* (Miquel) Miquel, which has a disjunct distribution between eastern to southeastern Asia (25 spp.) and eastern North America (2 spp.). A detailed taxonomic account of section *Dimorphanthus* is provided by Wen (2001b). *Aralia frodiniana* possesses the synapomorphies of section *Dimorphanthus*: woody habit, prickly stems, bipinnate to tripinnate leaves, and relatively large pollen tectoral perforations (Wen, 2001b). This taxon is one of only two species of *Aralia* recorded from Sulawesi, the other being *A. merrillii* Shang (also belonging to sect. *Dimorphanthus*), which was treated in *Flora Malesiana* as *A. scandens* (Merrill) Ha (Philipson, 1979).

***Aralia frodiniana* J. Wen, sp. nov.** TYPE: Indonesia. Sulawesi: "Celebes en Onderhond. afd. Bonthain, Paring talasa," 18 Apr. 1922, *Boschproefstation* 5462 (holotype, L). Figure 1.

Frutex erectus, aculeatus. Folia bipinnata; foliolis ovatis, 3–8 cm longis, 2.0–4.5 cm latis, apice acutis vel acuminatis, basi rotundatis vel subcordatis, margine serratis.

Inflorescentia terminalis, pubens, ca. 35 cm longa; umbellis 12- ad 35-floris; pedicellis 5–12 mm longis. Fructus globosus, 3.2–4.1 mm longus, 3.0–3.8 mm latus.

Erect shrubs with prickles on stem. Leaves bipinnate, each pinna subtended by a stipel; petioles with a few conically shaped prickles, pubescent; stipules coriaceous, almost entirely fused with each other at the petiole base, ca. 2 cm long; leaflets ovate, occasionally elliptic, 3–8 × 2.0–4.5 cm, acute to acuminate at apex, rounded to occasionally acute or slightly subcordate at base; serrate at margin; coriaceous to thick papery; petiolules 0–1 mm long; adaxial surface dark green, with conspicuous, sunken and somewhat pubescent veins and veinlets; abaxial surface grayish green, densely pubescent; lateral veins 8 or 9; stipels with petiolules 0.8–2.2 cm long. Inflorescence terminal, ca. 35 cm long, densely pubescent, prickles absent, main axis ca. 12 cm long, ca. 15 primary lateral branches forming a large panicle; each 30–35 × 15–20 cm, with many (ca. 40) secondary branches; secondary branches with 3 to 10 umbels; umbels 12- to 35-flowered; pedicels pilose to pubescent, 5–12 mm long; bracts subtending primary branches narrowly triangular, ca. 15 × 5–7 mm, dark brownish, ciliate, glabrous elsewhere; bracteoles lanceolate, 1.7–1.9 × ca. 1 mm, glabrous or only slightly ciliate. Flowers not seen. Fruits globose, 3.2–4.1 × 3.0–3.8 mm, with persistent sepals and styles; styles connate for 3/4 of their length from the base, divided and recurved above, 2–2.2 mm long. Seeds 5 per fruit.

**Distribution.** Endemic to the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**Phenology.** Flowers not recorded, fruiting in April to June.

This species is named in honor of my colleague David Frodin, who has provided much encouragement in my studies of Araliaceae.

*Aralia frodiniana* is similar to *A. montana* Blume (sect. *Dimorphanthus*) from Java and Sumatra (Wen, 2001b) in its short to subsessile petiolules, and its narrowly triangular, dark brownish and glabrous bracts, which may be ciliate along the margin. It is distinguished from *A. montana* by its densely pu-



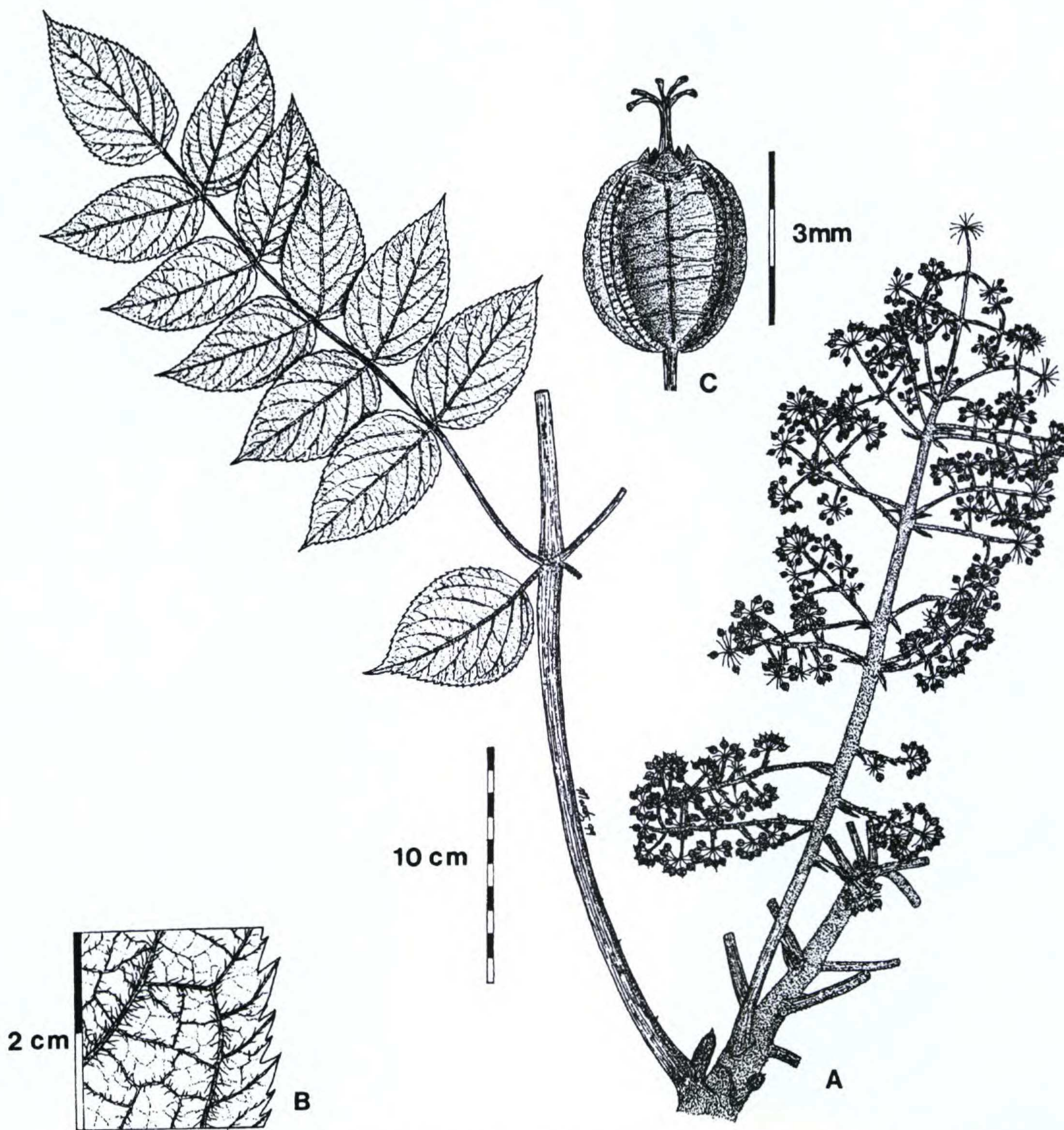


Figure 1. *Aralia frodiniana* J. Wen. —A. Leaf with infructescence. —B. Leaflet abaxial surface. —C. Fruit. A–C drawn from the type, *Boschproefstation* 5462.

bescent inflorescence, more pubescent leaves, and thinner leaflets. *Aralia frodiniana* differs from *A. ferox* Miquel from Java and Sumatra in having somewhat larger leaflets ( $3.0\text{--}8.0 \times 2.0\text{--}4.5$  cm vs.  $2.5\text{--}6.5 \times 1.2\text{--}3.5$  cm) that are pubescent (vs. glabrescent or with short bristles on veins and veinlets), and a densely pubescent (vs. glabrous) inflorescence. *Aralia merrillii* (the only other *Aralia* species in Sulawesi) is highly distinctive by its scandent or climbing habit, recurved (vs. straight) prickles, mostly glabrous (vs. pubescent) leaflets with long petiolules (3–13 mm), caducous (vs. persistent) bracts, and glabrous (vs. pilose to pubes-

cent) pedicels. For a detailed discussion of taxa in *Aralia* sect. *Dimorphanthus*, see Wen (2001b).

*Aralia frodiniana* is presently only known from two collections (the holotype and the paratype). The conservational status of the species needs to be investigated.

*Paratype.* INDONESIA. **Southwest Sulawesi** (Celebes): G. Bonthain, ca. 2600 m, 14 June 1921, *Bunnemeijer* 12147 (L).

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